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## What is in store for Main Street Clinton in 2020?

By Main Street Clinton Director Tara Lytal

The Main Street Clinton organization turns thirteen in February. Over the past decade, we have seen the program help facilitate dramatic changes in the Main Street districts. Among the most noteworthy is the transformation of Olde Towne into the heart of the community, with many annual events that have become ingrained in the fabric of our family traditions. Last fall, our Olde Towne area took a big hit. This blow came in the form of the loss of several businesses on Jefferson Street, some due to extenuating circumstances with several of the business owners, and one due to an ongoing dispute with a property owner.



Special to The Clinton Courier

Seemingly overnight, Olde Towne went from a bustling commerce area to what "appeared" to be a vacant downtown. However, Olde Towne is definitely not vacant! Just ask any of the thriving businesses who call the brick streets home, among them: James & Leigh, Wyatt Waters Gallery, The Bank, Posh, Meme's Brick Street Bakery, Brick Street Pops, Cups, Leake Street Collection, 303 Jefferson, Sii Bello, Pimento's Café, Clinton Printware and Trophies, The Hair Affair, Winstead Clothing, Olde Towne Barre, Dee's Flowers, and the newest addition to Olde Towne, Jillian's Salon, Too. These great businesses, along with the numerous service businesses, have chosen to make Olde Towne their home.



As for the majority of the vacant properties, all, with the exception of one property, are owned by an out of state owner. Several of the vacancies are due to an ongoing dispute with a property owner. In spite of this, please help our Olde Towne businesses and our entire Clinton business community by shopping local. They need and deserve your support. Before leaving town to make purchases, consider whether your purchase could be made locally. We all benefit when we keep our money in the local economy.

In 2020, we look forward to the addition of the new Lions Club Park to the downtown. It will open the door for so many new and exciting events. We have already started working on plans for 2020 Christmas in the Park. It is going to be fun year exploring the new outdoor spaces and the vibrancy that they will bring to the area. The park will help connect downtown to the Olde Towne Depot and the great things that they are doing.

We continue to see positive improvements in the Boulevard Business District. Two new Boulevard Cars were installed in the fall, with one more slated to be installed. The BBQ on the Boulevard has grown into a great event supported by the business community.

The Main Street Clinton organization - staff and community volunteers - will continue the job that was started in 2007. We have talented volunteer leadership who is dedicated to making our community the best that it can be. We will continue to take the quality events that we have established to the next level so that our community will be proud.

Truth • Love • Community

# parkway

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